

Shea, Valois

From: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
Sent: Sunday, June 18, 2017 9:40 PM
To: Shea, Valois
Subject: Comment: Uranium Mining in the Southern Black Hills
Importance: High

Dear Valois Shea:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and especially thanks to the EPA for holding so many hearings in the Black Hills about this proposed project. It was a rare chance for everyone to be heard. I attended many hours of your public hearings in Rapid City.

I am a Black Hills agricultural landowner and I have many years of experience in managing both public and private lands. I am also a biologist. I don't claim to be a uranium expert, but I have extensive experience with energy companies and investors who try to behave like energy companies (as in this case).

Please do not grant an exemption to the Safe Drinking Water Act for this project and do not allow either deep injection disposal wells or injection wells for the ISR of uranium. It is hard to believe that something like this would be proposed, let alone approved, in this area.

Azarga/Powertech consists of investors who are not uranium miners as such. Yes, they may hire people who know what they are doing, but some things they are proposing have never been done before. We only get one chance at this. If it doesn't go well, it could destroy a large part of the Southern Hills and associated agriculture. In this rural area, we depend on agriculture and tourism. I know a few people are in favor of this project for the jobs, but that is not the reason to approve something that is this potentially damaging. This proposal trades long term incomes for many and the health of the larger environment for the *potential* short term financial gain of a foreign company.

The Southern Hills are extremely dry. The climate is changing and the hills are becoming warmer and drier. The huge amount of water that would be used by Azarga would not be in the best interest of agriculture, tourism, residents or wildlife. We do not have the luxury of using that much water for uranium mining, even in the best case scenario. This alone could be devastating. Pumping waste into the ground is also a bad proposition when water is scarce.

Nearly everyone at the hearings was against the uranium mining. I realize that these things are not "a vote" as such, but I heard many compelling reasons why this mining should not take place. Please deny all of Azarga's requests.

Thank you.

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